

REMARKS

Examiner is thanked for carefully reviewing the present application. The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated March 20, 2007 regarding claims 1-10, 17-20 and 22-24.

Favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 18 and 24 are cancelled, and the limitations thereof are added to claims 1 and 19 respectively. Thus, claims 1-10, 17, 19-20 and 22-23 are now pending in the present application. The amended claims contain no new matter nor raise new issues.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication in Objections that claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 amended in the last response also should be allowable in the manner as claim 24, since SiO_x was removed from claim 18 in the last response. In response thereto, claims 18 and 24 are cancelled, and the limitations thereof are added to claims 1 and 19 respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 19 are now allowable, and dependent claims 2-10, 17, 22, 20 and 23 each of which depends from independent claims 1 or 19 are likewise believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, the applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview.

Should any additional fees be required please charge Deposit Account 50-3720. Should any additional extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-3720 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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